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Subject: Flint Readout 04/26/16

[Editorial: State lawmakers need to act on much-needed money for Flint](#)

By Editorial Board, MLIVE 04/26/16 3:38 PM

At long last, Flint's water crisis got the attention it deserved in January. When both Gov. Rick Snyder and President Barack Obama pledged to fix Flint, it seemed both levels of government understood the enormity of the problem. Given the national outcry, including recent criminal charges of three government workers, we might assume that everything is being done to fix the problem.

[Senate bill seeks to revive \\$220M in Flint-inspired aid](#)

By Detroit News 04/26/16 3:14 PM

A leading Republican and Democrat have introduced a bill that seems designed in part to revive chances of passing a \$220 million Flint-inspired aid package in the Senate. U.S. Sens. Jim Inhofe, R-Oklahoma, and Barbara Boxer, D-California, introduced the Water Resources Development Act that includes key parts of the aid package negotiated by Michigan's Democratic U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow of Lansing and Gary Peters of Bloomfield Hills with some Republican leaders. The legislation also approves funding for port and harbor improvements, ecosystem revitalizations and drought aid.

US Senators Agree on Remedy for Flint Water Crisis

By VOA 04/26/16 2:23 PM

Senators from both major U.S. political parties have tentatively agreed to remediate the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. The agreement would authorize \$170 million in grants and loans to replace the city's lead-contaminated water pipes and other infrastructure and allocate \$50 million for lead-prevention programs nationwide.

Flint water crisis funding hitched to federal water bill

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 04/26/16 1:52 PM

A new route could be opening to bring federal funding to help address the Flint water crisis. U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, both Michigan Democrats, announced today, April 26, that a funding package for Flint has been included in the Water Resources Development Act.

Flint measure slipped into water development bill

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 04/26/16 1:48 PM

A bipartisan bill addressing ports, harbors and river navigation will include a proposal put forward months ago that could directly help Flint respond to the public health crisis caused by high levels of lead detected in the city's drinking water. Staff for the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Tuesday morning outlined a \$9.3-billion Water Resources Development Act that includes the provisions to address water pipes and other infrastructure in Flint and elsewhere across the U.S.

After Flint crisis, Senate Democrats call on Congress to pay for lead testing in U.S. schools

By Emma Brown, Washington Post 04/26/16 1:32 PM

Twenty-four Senate Democrats are asking their colleagues in Congress to help schools pay for the testing of lead levels in drinking water, calling it an investment to ensure the health and safety of the nation's children. The move comes in the aftermath of the drinking-water crisis in Flint, Mich., which helped shine a light on a loophole in federal law that exempts many schools from having to test their water for lead contamination. Many schools don't have the resources for voluntary testing, leaving children vulnerable to the possibility of undetected toxins in the water they drink from school fountains.

Senators Again Reach Deal on Flint Water Crisis Aid

By Matthew Daly, ABC News 04/26/16 1:17 PM

For the second time in two months, the Senate has reached a bipartisan deal to address a water crisis in Flint, Michigan, where lead-contaminated pipes have resulted in an ongoing public health emergency. Democratic Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters of Michigan said an agreement reached Tuesday with Republican Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma would authorize \$170 million in grants and loans to replace the city's lead-contaminated pipes and other infrastructure. It includes \$50 million to bolster lead-prevention programs nationwide. The measure would be part of a larger water resources bill in the Senate.

Senate unveils \$9B waterways bill with aid for Flint

By Melanie Zanona, The Hill 04/26/16 12:46 PM

The Senate unveiled a \$9.4 billion waterways bill to boost U.S. ports, waterways and clean water infrastructure on Tuesday that also provides emergency assistance to address the drinking water crisis in Flint, Mich., where water from the Flint River corroded the city's pipes, contaminating the water supply with lead. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will mark up the measure on Thursday.

\$220 million Flint aid package included in water bill

By Timothy Cama, The Hill 04/26/16 12:42 PM

A \$220 million legislative package to help Flint, Mich., and other cities with water contamination is now part of a bipartisan water infrastructure bill in the Senate. It's the same legislation that Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman James Inhofe (R-Okla.)

had proposed in February amid growing Democratic calls to provide hundreds of millions of dollars to help Flint recover from its lead contamination crisis.

Flint water crisis lawsuit claims EPA dragged its feet on complaints

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 04/26/16 4:15 PM

It took federal environmental regulators up to 18 months to investigate citizen complaints about poor water quality in Flint, according to a new lawsuit. An administrative complaint filed Monday, April 25, against the Environmental Protection Agency seeks more than \$220 million in damages after federal regulators allegedly dragged their feet in response to the Flint water crisis.

Flint, Michigan residents sue EPA over water crisis

By Allen Cone, UPI 04/26/16 3:55 PM

Hundreds of current and former residents of Flint, Mich., have joined to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 18 months after a former resident first contacted the agency about water problems there. More than 500 families are seeking more than \$220 million as compensation for personal injuries and property damage.

Lawyers file \$220 million damage claim against EPA in Flint water crisis

By David Bailey, Reuters 04/26/16 1:25 PM

Lawyers for residents of Flint, Michigan, have filed a \$220.2 million damages claim alleging negligence on the part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contributed to dangerous lead levels in the city's water supply. In a statement issued on Tuesday, Michael Pitt said his firm Royal Oak, Michigan's Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers, along with others, had filed an administrative complaint on Monday with the EPA alleging injuries to over 500 people. They said they would file a similar complaint next week covering 250 more Flint residents.

EPA faces complaint listing \$220 million in damages over Flint water

By Chad Halcom, Crain's Detroit Business 04/26/16 12:39 PM

A new administrative complaint against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency alleges more than \$220 million damages for negligence against the federal agency for its role in the burgeoning Flint water crisis starting last year. The complaint on behalf of 513 Flint residents, many of them children and their families exposed to lead leaching from water pipes starting in 2014, claims about \$15 million in property damage to about 150 homes and \$205.2 million in personal injury damages, under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

Flint Residents File Explosive \$225 Million Damage Claim Against EPA

By Jayce Wagner, InQuisitr 04/26/16

Lawyers representing residents of Flint, Michigan, filed a damage claim against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today, slamming the federal agency for its failure to protect the citizens of Flint from the disastrous contamination of Flint's water supply. The damages claim alleges that the EPA is responsible for upward of \$220.2 million in damages. While a damages claim against a federal agency like the EPA isn't exactly a lawsuit, it is legally required before a lawsuit can be filed against a federal agency, reports Yahoo! News. The lawyers filing the damages claim allege that the EPA is responsible in part for the Flint water crisis, causing harm to over five hundred citizens of Flint, Michigan.

Flint residents seek \$220M in damages from EPA

By Jim Lynch, Detroit News 04/26/16 8:50 AM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now the latest governmental entity targeted for damages in a class action lawsuit stemming from the Flint water crisis. On Monday, attorneys for more than 500 current and former city residents filed claims for personal injury and property damage. Those claims, which fall under the Federal Tort Claims Act, total more than \$220 million in potential damages.

Flint Non-Profits & Donations

Flint nonprofits receive more than \$523,000 to mitigate lead effects

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 04/26/16 4:51 PM

Five Flint-area nonprofit organizations are set to receive more than \$523,000 via funding received through the Flint Child Health and Development Fund and the Healthy Food and Safe Water Fund to combat the effects of lead. The Flint Child Health and Development Fund and

Healthy Food and Safe Water Fund were both established at the Community Foundation of Greater Flint to aid in efforts to help amid and beyond the city's water crisis.

Mom in center of Flint water crisis starts nonprofit

By AP for WZZM ABC 13 04/26/16 12:05 PM

A mother of four who faced scorn as she tried to expose dangerous levels of lead in the water in Flint now is part of a nonprofit started to help area residents. LeeAnne Walters said Monday the Community Development Organization, also known as C Do, will focus on “helping real people in crisis” amid “environmental injustices.” The Flint Journal reports organizers hope to raise \$1 million for their efforts.

Close To 500,000 Pounds Of Water Collected For Flint Michigan

By Jean Ross, CBS Atlanta 04/25/16 3:28 PM

The Water Day for Flint from Atlanta with Love effort started with a goal of filling three 18-wheeler trucks with enough water (about 36,000 pounds) to send to Flint Michigan to help with the water crisis there. Organizers from Hosea Helps, local pastors from several churches, the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority, United Youth-Adult Conference, the Voter Empowerment Collaborative, AIM Steel International, WAOK Radio, CBS 46 TV and the Teamsters joined forces on Saturday to collect the bottled water to ship to Flint.

EPA launching new water infrastructure effort after Flint

By Devin Henry, Hill 04/26/16 5:18 PM

Federal regulators plan to begin working with state and local officials on an assessment of drinking water infrastructure in the wake of the Flint, Mich. crisis. The Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday it will begin discussing— with state regulators, utilities and groups outside government — steps they can take to implement safe drinking water laws.

Reacting to Flint crisis, EPA launches U.S. drinking water study

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 04/26/16 2:49 PM

The public health crisis caused by high lead levels in Flint's water and the toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie in recent years are among the threats being cited by federal environmental officials who called Tuesday for a comprehensive look at how to better protect the nation's drinking water. In a blog post, Joel Beauvais, deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, announced the effort, saying: "As a country, we can and must do more to make sure that every American has access to safe drinking water."

Michigan/Flint PD

A Mother's Murder Reveals That Water Is Not Flint's Only Crisis

By Emma Bracy, VICE 04/26/16 5:36 PM

Last week, Sasha Avonna Bell, 19, was gunned down in her apartment in Flint, Michigan, along with her friend, 19-year-old Sacorya Renee Reed. Police discovered the young women's bodies on April 19. Bell, mother of a one-year-old son, was one of the first mothers to file a suit against the city on behalf of her son, who contracted lead poisoning from the city's water. Bell's toddler was also found inside the apartment, uninjured. Police arrested Malek Thornton, 18, an acquaintance of Bell's, in connection to the murder the following day.

New Flint police task force seizes guns, drugs, \$18K in two-week period

By Molly Young, MLIVE 04/26/16 3:55 PM

Standing behind more than a dozen guns, \$18,000 in cash and a number of drugs, officials said that while they work toward clean and safe water, they are also working toward safe neighborhoods in the city of Flint. Mayor Karen Weaver held a press briefing Tuesday morning, April 26, saying Flint Police Chief Tim Johnson and his crew's plan, including the implementation of a new Crime Area Target Team task force, to make city streets safe for residents is working.

Michigan Police Begin Monitoring Social Media for Flint Water Crisis Unrest

By Krystle Vermes, Tech Times 04/26/16 10:33 AM

Michigan police have started monitoring social media to track posts pertaining to the Flint water crisis, according to emails from Governor Rick Snyder's office. The online surveillance initiative is geared toward honing in on individuals who are making threats based on their frustration with

the tainted water problem. In one instance, criminal proceedings have already been initiated against a man who made threatening comments on Facebook about the local government. A state police email states that the individual had called for "civil unrest" and the burning of the governor's mansion.

THREE PEOPLE IN CONNECTION WITH FLINT WATER CRISIS LAWSUITS DIE SUDDENLY

By Niema Hulin, Blasting News 04/26/16

The Flint Water Crisis has taken a darker turn than anyone expected. In the last two weeks, three people involved directly or indirectly in lawsuits against the Michigan city over the high amounts of toxic lead in the water have been murdered or died suddenly. The bodies of Sasha Avonna Bell and Sacorya Renee Reed were found shot in the Ridgecrest Village Townhouses on April 19th. Matthew McFarland was found dead just three days earlier.

Other News

Flint water crisis protest at two-year mark urges change

By Jake May, MLIVE 04/26/16 12:46 PM

More than 50 people rallied together in continued protest Monday afternoon outside of Flint City Hall on the two-year anniversary of the initial switch to the city's water plant. A number of protesters stood with a bullhorn in hands, taking turns to share their stories and feelings on the water crisis. Flint resident Tony Palladino Jr. screamed out with disgust in the state government's role, sharing that in his opinion, it's clear there is not care for the city's residents.

Fifth Flint Water Crisis Hearing Discusses Legionnaire's Disease Investigation

By Jesi Munguia, 9 & 10 News 04/25/16 4:15 PM

A legislative committee held its fifth hearing on the Flint water crisis on Monday. DEQ Interim Director Keith Creagh and Department of Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon testified Monday in Lansing.

Opinions

In Flint water crisis, race is more a distraction than explanation

By Leonard Pitts, Miami Herald for Detroit Free Press 04/26/16 4:33 PM

Dear white people: As you no doubt know, the water crisis in Flint, Mich., returned to the headlines last week with news that the state attorney general is charging three government officials for their alleged roles in the debacle. It makes this a convenient moment to deal with something that has irked me about the way this disaster is framed.

Flint and America's Corroded Trust

By Charlie LeDuff, Mother Jones 04/25/16

It's been the subject of protests and debates, but if anything is improving in Flint, Michigan, it's hard for any of us on the ground to see. One of the city's lead pipes has been replaced for the benefit of the press, but more than 8,000 additional service lines are likely corroded and still leaching toxic lead. It took a mom, a pediatrician, and a professor in Virginia to discover Flint's children were being poisoned. It took cable television to get the nation to give a damn.

Charges in Flint Water Crisis Are Tip of the Iceberg

By Bankole Thompson, Ebony 04/25/16

Michigan Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette's decision to charge Mike Glasgow, Stephen Busch and Mike Prysby, three low level employees of the state of Michigan and the city of Flint in connection with the lead poisoning of roughly 10,000 children is not enough. The April 20 charges made national headlines because it is the first time criminal charges emanated from the crisis in the city. That officials in state government - including some members of the governor's senior team - would turn a deaf ear to the cries of Flint residents for 18 months while subjecting them to drinking lead-contaminated water is a crime that warrants serious prison time.

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